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## **NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release**



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### **NDA STAFF TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON KEY AG TOPICS AT HUSKER HARVEST DAYS**

LINCOLN – Information on a wide range of topics will be provided by Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) staff members during this year's Husker Harvest Days (HHD), being held in Grand Island Sept. 15-17.

Topics of particular interest are the NextGen and Negotiations programs. Information on both programs will be available from NDA staff members at the booth in the Nebraska Farmer Hospitality Tent.

"Our Negotiations program offers farmers and ranchers USDA program or credit conflict resolution through mediation," NDA Program Administrator Karla Bahm said. "It has been a useful tool in assisting parties to come to successful conclusions."

Bahm said the NextGen Program utilizes tax credits to cultivate the next generation of Nebraska farmers and ranchers. She said the program has been successful in giving farmers a "boost" in getting their operations started.

Event-goers also will have the opportunity to interact with Lt. Governor Mike Foley, who will be accompanied by NDA Assistant Director Bobbie Kriz-Wickham on the grounds Tuesday. Lt. Gov. Foley just returned from a successful trade mission to Japan, building relationships with key trade partners in one of Nebraska's biggest meat export markets.

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“Farmers and ranchers at Husker Harvest Days will be able to get firsthand insight from the lieutenant governor on how important these trade missions are in securing our export markets,” said NDA Director Greg Ibach, who also made the trip to Japan. “This is an opportunity for our constituents to provide input on important agriculture issues to the lieutenant governor and assistant director.”

In the Commodities Building at HHD, NDA Ag Promotion staff members will be talking to farmers about diversification of their current operation through the addition or expansion of livestock. There also will be discussion about how such diversification can assist in bringing family members back to the farm.

NDA Entomology Program staff will share information about new invasive and exotic plant pests of concern for Nebraska. They can be found in the NRD Building. State Entomologist Julie Van Meter said there has been recent interest in emerald ash borer as it gets closer to Nebraska. Program staff also will share information on the process for exporting plant products and export services provided by NDA.

NDA Pesticide Program staff will be located in the Nebraska Farmer Hospitality Tent with information about pesticide worker safety. Certified pesticide applicators who stop by the booth will have the opportunity to receive a pair of pesticide-resistant gloves for mixing/loading pesticides. Staff also will have information about the DriftWatch and buffer strip programs coordinated by NDA, as well as general information on pesticide use, safety and the environment.

NDA Noxious Weed Program staff will be on hand in the Nebraska Weed Control Association tent to identify noxious and invasive weeds.

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